

Message Text

SECRET

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P R 292111Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 206206

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, FR, GW, BE, WB

SUBJECT:ALLIED SERVICE TO SCHOENEFELD

REF: PARIS 8149 (NOTAL); PARIS 14835; USBERLIN 2175,
LONDON 13841; LONDON 13809; USBERLIN 2254

1. ON AUGUST 25 DEPARTMENT RAISED AT OFFICE DIRECTOR
LEVEL QUESTION OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN SCHOENEFELD AND
LONDON AND PARIS RESPECTIVELY WITH UK EMBOFF AND
SEPARATELY FRENCH EMBOFF. WE SAID THAT WE CONTINUE TO
HEAR RUMORS THAT INTERFLUG SERVICE TO ALLIED DESTINATIONS

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AND/OR AIR FRANCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS SERVICE TO
SCHOENEFELD MAY BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE AIRLINES.
WE SAID WE APPRECIATED THE ASSURANCES WE HAD RECEIVED
THAT THIS WAS NOT THECASE (LONDON 13841, PARIS 14835).
NONETHELESS, WE NOTED THAT AIRLINES WERE NOT ABOVE
PROCEEDING ON WHAT THEY CONSIDER PURELY COMMERCIAL
MATTERS WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENTS

AND REQUESTED THAT UK AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS KEEP CLOSE CHECK ON THIS.

2. WE NOTED THAT EVEN INFORMAL SOUNDINGS BY BRITISH AIRWAYS AND AIR FRANCE WITH THE GDR ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE UNWISE, SINCE WORD OF THE DISCUSSION, SHOULD IT LEAK TO THE PRESS, WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT BERLIN MORALE AND GENERATE SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE ALLIED AIR CARRIERS WITH POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE IGS. WE SAID AN; CONTEMPLATED CHANGES IN THE BERLIN AIR SITUATION SUCH AS SERVICE BETWEEN SCHOENEFELD AND ALLIED DESTINATIONS SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FULL CONSIDERATION IN THE BONN GROUP BEFORE ANY APPROACHES ARE MADE IN THAT DIRECTION WITH THE GDR.

3. WE NOTED THAT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THE BONN GROUP UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE BERLIN AIR SITUATION AND SAID THAT WE THOUGHT THE STUDY SHOULD NOW PROCEED, PERHAPS FOR PRESENTATION TO MINISTERS AT THE QUADRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL IN DECEMBER.

4. UK AND FRENCH EMBOFFS RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND SAID THEY WOULD REPORT US CONCERNS AND OUR SUGGESTION FOR THE BONN GROUP AIR STUDY.

5. DEPT. CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT THE BONN GROUP
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DRAFT A BROAD STUDY OF THE BERLIN AIR SITUATION, INCLUDING AN EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF SERVICE BETWEEN SCHOENEFELD AND ALLIED DESTINATIONS. US REP SHOULD REMIND THE BONN GROUP OF EARLIER US INTEREST IN THE STUDY, AND PROPOSE IT NOW PROCEED. WHILE IT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE UNDESIRABLE TO ALLUDE TO THE QUESTION OF SCHOENEFELD/UK-FRANCE SERVICES AT THIS POINT AT A MEETING WHERE ALL FOUR BONN GROUP GOVERNMENTS ARE REPRESENTED, THE STUDY'S FRAME OF REFERENCE SHOULD CLEARLY BE DRAWN TO INCLUDE SUCH ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THE STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE DECEMBER QUADRIPARTITE MEETING TO PERMIT PRESENTATION TO MINISTERS SHOULD THAT STEP PROVE DESIRABLE. VANCE

NOTE BY OCT: DISSIMINATION COORDINATED WITH SS/O PER MR. ROGER HART.

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